

REMARKS**I. Status Of Application**

Claims 1-43 are pending. Examiner Kramer has indicated that claims 1-12 were allowed, and that claims 16, 18, 21, 22, 25, 27, 36-38, 42, and 43 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant's undersigned counsel spoke with supervisor Angela Sykes on October 4, 2007 and understood from that conversation that Nicole Kramer, the previous Examiner on this application, had left the Patent Office, and that George Manuel would be assigned to the application. Following that conversation, Applicant's undersigned counsel spoke to Examiner Manuel and indicated, as discussed below, that Applicant would be amending the claims to put the application in condition for allowance in conformance with the allowable claims indicated by Nicole Kramer.

II. Amendment To Put Claims Into Condition For Allowance

To put the application in condition for allowance, Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

- Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 16 and intervening dependent claim 15 (which was previously directly dependent on claim 13). Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled and claim 14 remains dependent on claim 13. Claim 17 has been amended to depend directly from claim 13.
- Dependent claim 19 has been amended to include the base limitation of

independent claim 13 (thus making it an independent claim¹). Allowable claim 21 and intervening dependent claim 20 have been merged with amended claim 19 to put claim 19 into condition for allowance. Claim 22 has been amended to depend directly on claim 19.

- Independent claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 25 and intervening dependent claim 24. Claim 26 has been amended to depend directly on claim 23. Claim 27 remains the same (depending directly form claim 26).
- Independent claim 28 and claims 29-32 which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 28 have been canceled.
- Independent claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 36 and intervening dependent claim 35 (which depends directly on claim 33). Claims 35 and 36 have been canceled and 34 remains dependent on claim 33. Claims 37 and 39 have been amended to be dependent on amended independent claim 33.

In view of the foregoing amendment to the claims, Applicant now believes the application to be in condition for allowance.

¹ Independent claim 28 and its related dependent claims have been canceled. Therefore, the same number of independent claims are present as in the original application.

PATENT

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CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing remarks respectfully is requested.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney if doing so would expedite prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,



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